# BENTFIELD MILL

OS Reference: TL 501246; Above limit of navigation, in Watermill Lane, Stanstead Mountfitchet, Essex CM24 8TP

1086 Mentioned in the Domesday Book “Benedfelda Robert Gernon. **Mill.** 3 cobs.” 1729 4th Jun “doe view the Lowshotts & penns of …. Benfield Mill & give an acct how wide & deep they ought to be at ye next Meeting” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:*

[*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1729 23rd Jul “Bentfield Mill Att this Court It is presented that Bentfield Mill penns (space) fot and (space) inches the Lowshott (space) fo t” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 5th Dec “Do Survey the Pens and Overshotts of … Bentfield Mill on the said Twelfth day of this instant December and make their Report to the Commissioner *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1764 23rd Nov Will of John Reddington of Bentfield Mill, miller *[ERO D/ABW 101/2/80]* c1765 Shown on map, no proprietor *[Smeaton’s Papers, Vol 6 Fol 87v Royal Society]* 1805 1st Edition OS Map marked as Bendfield

1815 Shown on map of Hassobury Estate as ‘Bentfield Mill Farm’ No mill recorded. *[ERO T/M/ 457/8]*

1867 Richard Hunt giving evidence before the Rivers Pollution Commission said that there used to be a mill but it had been given up. There was insufficient water to work it . *[Pollution Commission 1867 p 73]*

1983 Visit by John Boyes: The present house was not a mill but could have been the millers house. There is pargetting on a wall in one room. There were at one time two houses here. Between the house and the road there is an area in which a spring bubbles up. The brickwork of the house appears to be 18th century.

# PARSONAGE MILL

OS Reference: TL 494224; Above limit of navigation, in Millcroft, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM23 2BP

1729 4th Jun “doe view the Lowshotts & penns of … Parsonage Mill …& give an acct how wide & deep they ought to be at ye next Meeting” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1729 23rd Jul “Parsonage Mill And alsoe that the Parsonage Mill penns five foot and three inches and the Lowshott is six fot. and tenn inches wide” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 5th Dec “Do Survey the Pens and Overshotts of … Parsonage Mill … on the said Twelfth day of this instant December and make their Report to the Commissioner” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1760 2nd Jan “Parsonage Mill We present, We found the pen of the Mill to Damage the Lands on both sides the River. And that in case the said pen was lowered. It will be of service to the Lands adjoining the River above this said Mill” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

c1765 Shown on map, no proprietor *[Smeaton’s Papers, Vol 6 Fol 87v Royal Society]*

1785 3rd Sep John Cole of Hockerill baker & miller. On his dwelling house and bakehouse adjoining £120 On a house in Bishops Stortford North Street, £60. Utensils and stock in a water corn mill distant from above £50 *[Sun Fire Insurance Policy 509272]*

1805 1st Edition OS Map marked as Parsons 1823-4 John Canning (miller)

1841 7th June John Canning (35) (miller) *[Census RG7/Herts/Bishops Stortford/1/6]*

1832-1855 John Cater Canning

1851 30th Mar. John Cater Canning (48) (miller) *[Census RG8/Herts/Bishops Stortford/2a/45]*

1861 8th Apr William Waylett (53) (miller (master)), William 18 (miller)*[Census RG9/Herts*

*/Bishops Stortford/2g/24]*

1861 – 1878 William Waylett

1871 2nd Apr William Waylett (63) (miller) *[Census RG10/Herts/Bishops Stortford/2/35]*

1881 4th Apr William Waylett (73) (miller – corn) *[Census RG11/Herts/Bishops Stortford/2/39]* 1891 5th April Arthur Andrews (34) (miller, baker) *[Census RG12/Herts/Bishops Stortford/2/9]* 1892 4th July To be let with 3 pairs of stones, dwelling house, bakery office and premises.

Possession at Michaelmas. Apply to G E Sworder & Sons, Bishops Stortford

*[The Miller]*

1901 31st Mar George Tofts (52) (miller) *[Census RG13/Herts/Bishops Stortford/2/5]*

1911 2nd April William George Turner (farm labourer) *[Census RG14/7492/1341/1]*

1948 – 1952 All gone except the mill-race and the house. It was working until about 1902, used for grinding corn for the adjoining farm *[Howarth MS]*

# TOWN MILL, BISHOPS STORTFORD

OS Reference: TL 488214; At head of navigation (Mill Wharf), in Bridge Street, Bishops Stortford, Herts

1086 Mentioned in the Domesday Book: “Storteford: Bishop of London. **2 mills**.” There were two mills valued at 30/- in the time of Domesday and the one in Bridge Street produced flour and cattle feed.

1729 4th Jun “doe view the Lowshotts & penns of … Stortford Mill … & give an acct how wide & deep they ought to be at ye next Meeting” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1729 23rd Jul “It is also presented that Thomas Bowyer of Bishops Stortford hath not cleansed his low overshot belonging to Stortford Mill according to Order of Sewers made the 7th day of May last. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1729 23rd Jul “Stortford Mill And alsoe that Stortford Mill penns four foot eight inches and the Lowshott is eight foot eight inches wide ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 5th Dec “Do Survey the Pens and Overshotts of … Stortford Mill, … on the said Twelfth day of this instant December and make their Report to the Commissioner” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

c1765 Proprietor The Revd. Mr Stanley on map *[Smeaton’s Papers, Vol 6 Fol 87v Royal Society]*

1779 15th Apr Rev. Francis Stanley of Great Wealey, Essex (Weeley, near Colchester?). On his house and water corn mill communicating, brick timber; tiled. In tenure of William Daniel miller £800 *[Sun Fire Insurance Policy 412773]*

1791 18th Jan William Daniels on house goods £190. Mill utensils and stock £300. In stable

£10. *[Sun Fire Insurance Policy 578795]*

1793 15th May William Daniels on granary only £100 *[Sun Fire Insurance Policy 615007]*

1823 – 1834 William Daniels 1839 William Daniels Snr

1841 7th Jun William Daniels (80) (miller) *[Census RG7/Herts/Bishops Stortford/2/15]*

1849 7th Aug William Daniels conveys all his estate for the benefit of his creditors

1851 30th Mar James Morris (60) (journeyman miller) (only miller on Bridge Street) *[Census RG8/ Herts/ Bishops Stortford/2b/3]*

1855 – 1864 James Tucker (miller and baker) South St and Town Mill *[Bishops Stortford Observer 4.5.1861]*

1861 8th Apr No miller or mill premises shown on Bridge Street*[Census RG9/Herts/Bishops Stortford/4f/1-4]* James Tucker (58) (miller & baker employing 3 men and 2 boys) lives on South Street *[Census RG9/Herts/Bishops Stortford/6h/40]*

1867 Mill owned by Mt T. N. Miller . *[Pollution Commission 1867 p 75]*

1871 2nd Apr No miller or mill premises shown on Bridge Street*[Census RG10/Herts/Bishops Stortford/4/4-7]*

1870-1886 R W Cowell (also Amber Wharf, South Street)

1881 4th Apr No miller or mill premises shown on Bridge Street*[Census RG11/Herts/Bishops Stortford/4/4-7]*

1891 5th Apr No miller or mill premises shown on Bridge Street*[Census RG12/Herts/Bishops Stortford/4/2-4]*

1892 Demolished (?) The site presented to the town in1911 by Sir Walter Gilbey 1890-1899 R W Cowell (Executors of)

**STEAM MILL, SOUTH STREET, BISHOPS STORTFORD**

OS Reference: TL 48904 20825

Thomas Burton, owner of Sawbridgeworth Mill, purchased a second, smaller, mill at 91 South Street, Bishop’s Stortford in 1923. This was on the west bank of the Stort Navigation with an inlet (dock) on the mill’s north side. There is a photograph of the mill at <https://www.stortfordhistory.co.uk/guide13/the-maltings/#lowersouthstreet> from the Bishop’s Stortford Museum.

Bishop’s Stortford is some four miles upstream of Sawbridgeworth. The mill at Bishop’s Stortford was bought for £2,915 while the Sawbridgeworth mill’s asset value was £4,000 (plant and machinery, £6,000). Most of the payment was made to a solicitor but £300 was to O. H. Smith. The Stortford mill still appears in Burton’s ledgers in April 1947; later accounts presumably went with the company of Thomas Burton Ltd when it was sold in 1962. A fire destroyed the buildings in 1983 (S[tortfordhistory.co.uk](https://www.stortfordhistory.co.uk/guide13/the-maltings/#lowersouthstreet)).

**Inventory**

An inventory was drawn up by Matthew Watson, Landless & Pearse in June 1932, revised in 1935 and 1942. The property then included a four-bedroom dwelling house. The two-storey house was set back from South Street with the four-storey mill building attached behind. The main building was weatherboarded with a blue-slate roof and it had hoist ‘luccombes’ (lucams) to both river inlet and yard. On the river side of the main building were extensions (C and D) of one lofty storey and with a lean-to roof reaching up to the fourth storey of the main building; these housed the power sources. Across the yard was a store and an office. The end wall of the store was on the street frontage on the south of the plot. The small dock was on the north side of the property.

The plan from the inventory shows buildings A to F:

A – dwelling house.

B – main mill building, with extension on south side called ‘New Building’

C – Electric Motor House

D – Steam Boiler House (and D1 the chimney)

E – Store Shed

F – Office

The New Building was built up to the main building on its south side. It was of two storeys with corrugated iron sheets and a flat roof. Presumably this was the extension that was built in 1938 for £390.

C and D abutted the main building on the river side. The Electric Motor House (C) had a 50hp induction motor by Crompton Parkinson. The Steam Boiler House (D) included a Cornish steam boiler by E.R. & F. Turner (1900; 5’ dia x 18’ long). The brick chimney was 60’ high.

On the second storey of the main building were two H & H Grinders by H. Simon Ltd with 36” diameter stones. An 18" Inkoos Mill was in the Store Shed (E).

**Address and location**

The address of the mill in Burton’s ownership was 91 South Street, Bishop's Stortford, but properties on the street have clearly been renumbered. The 1914 *Kelly’s Directory* has 93 South Street as the address of “Smith R. E. & Co. millers (steam)”.

Comparing ancient and current maps, the former site of the mill is a modern commercial development, 97-101 South St, between Kwik Fit and Duckett’s Wharf. The dock has been in-filled and much of the site is parking for cars. The location of the mill is TL 48904 20825. Almost opposite across South Street is New Path which has Holy Trinity Church (built in 1859) on its north side.

An Ordnance Survey map; <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=20&lat=51.86614&lon=0.16115&layers=168&b=1> shows the site with malthouses to north and south; Charles Barnard mentioned that he owned malting premises near the mill (Para 2502 of his evidence to the Pollution of Rivers Commission).

<https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?resourceID=1008&uid=MHT10361>

<https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?resourceID=1008&uid=MHT10362>

The Stortford History website states that the site is now Kwik Fit (whose address is 95 South St, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3AL) but comparison of maps show that Kwik Fit corresponds to the malthouse to the north.

**Name**

In the Burton papers it is only referred to as Bishop's Stortford mill. The Stortford History website calls it ‘Burtons Mill’. At other times it seems to be simply called the steam mill.

**Timeline**

It was built as a steam-powered roller mill in the mid nineteenth century (by 1855). Nothing suggests that there was a watermill on the site previously. Charles Barnard (1807 – 72) of Harlowbury was presumably responsible for the construction. In his evidence about the River Stort to the Pollution of Rivers Commission (in December 1866), Barnard mentioned that he had built two steam flour mills himself (para. 2466) but does not explicitly state that this was one of them. The Barnard family had also rebuilt the mill at Sawbridgeworth.

The 1855 *Post Office Directory* has among the millers; “Barnard C, South St & Harlow”.

In December 1855 Charles Barnard of Harlow advertised in newspapers in Hertfordshire and Essex to offer a “steam corn and seed mill” to lease.

“TO BE LET ON LEASE, A STEAM CORN and SEED MILL, together with TWO adjoining COTTAGES, at BISHOP STORTFORD. The Corn Mill consists of Four Pairs of Stones, Going Gear, and all the requisite machinery for dressing flour, offals, &c. The engine-house contains an engine of about 10-horse power, together with 2 boilers. The engine is capable working the Corn and Seed Mill at the some time. The situation is highly eligible, having the high road at the western entrance the mill-yard, and a covered wharf at the eastern end the yard, close adjoining to the navigable River Stort. The mill is within a quarter of mile of the Stortford Station.—For particulars, apply to Mr. Charles Barnard, Harlow, Essex.” (*Essex Herald* 4 December 1855, *Hertford Mercury and Reformer* 8 December 1855 and others)

In 1870, “Charles Barnard of Harlow, proprietor of the steam mill, South-street,” complained of the state of the small dock adjoining his property (*Hertford Mercury and Reformer*: Saturday 10 September 1870).

Edward Russell Olorenshaw, defendant in a court case in December 1890, was described as having “formerly occupied the Steam Mill, Bishop Stortford” (this would be before April 1888). Previously he was at Molewood Mill, Bengeo, Hertford (1870-8).

The only Census returns, directly referring to the mill were in 1901 and 1911. Earlier returns occasionally quote a maltster living in South Street, but with no mill reference.

The 1901 census shows a House and Steam Flour Mill in South Street, occupied by Walter Nunn, Foreman Flour Miller, his wife and son.

The 1911 Census quotes “91 South Street” as the address. Walter Nunn is still a Foreman Flour Miller living there with his wife and, now, three children.

1902 and 1908 *Kelly’s*: “Smith R. E. & Co. millers (steam), South street”, appears under Bishop Stortford; in 1914 *Kelly’s* it was “Smith R. E. & Co. millers (steam), 93 South street”. Richard Ernest Smith also operated Parndon Mill; he died 26th September 1937, aged 73.

In 1923, Thomas Burton, owner of Sawbridgeworth Mill, purchased the mill.

The mill suffered a fire in 1924, resulting in an insurance payment of £260 on 2nd December.

The business became a limited company, Thomas Burton Ltd, in April 1925.

Stortford mill still appears in the Burton’s ledgers in April 1947; later accounts presumably went with the company of Thomas Burton Ltd when it was sold in 1962.

A fire destroyed the buildings in 1983 (Stortfordhistory.co.uk).

**Accommodation**

In December 1855 Charles Barnard advertised a steam mill with “two adjoining cottages”. In 1866, Barnard mentioned that he owned “Two cottages for the labourers, situated near the malting premises” (para 2503). Presumably the cottages were amalgamated to form a four-bedroom house by the 1932 inventory.

*“The premises of KwikFit is built on the former site of Burtons Mill; a 19th century five-storey high, timber-clad malting that once dominated South Street’s skyline. Although it survived town redevelopment in the 1970s, its age and general condition left little doubt it would eventually be demolished. That expense was spared in 1983 when a ‘mysterious’ fire razed it to the ground.”* [*https://www.stortfordhistory.co.uk/guide13/the-maltings/#lowersouthstreet*](https://www.stortfordhistory.co.uk/guide13/the-maltings/#lowersouthstreet)

Peter Golden

February 2021

# SOUTH MILL, BISHOPS STORTFORD

OS Reference: TL 492204; To the west of London Road, Bishops Stortford, Herts

1086 Mentioned in the Domesday Book: “Storteford: Bishop of London. **2 mills**.” There were two mills valued at 30/- in the time of Domesday, one in Bridge Street and it is possible that this was the other.

1729 4th Jun “doe view the Lowshotts & penns of South Mill … & give an acct how wide & deep they ought to be at ye next Meeting” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/)*]*

1729 23rd Jul “South Mill And alsoe that South Mill penns four foot six inches and an halfe and the Lowshott is eight foot wide. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 31st Oct “Complaint of Wm Beaumont postponed At this Court the Complaint of William Beaumont Owner and Occupyer of South Mill in the Parish of Bishops Stortford in the County of Hertford That his Mill is Damaged for want of an Over Shott to Twyford Mill in the Parish of Thorley is postponed at the request of the partys to the next Court…” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 24th Nov “The Complaint of Mr Wm Beaumont for want of an Overshott to Twyford Mill Also At this Court William Beaumont of South Mill complains that his Mill is greatly Damaged for Want of an Overshott to Twyford Mill and that the Penn of Twyford Mill is too high and Pens into South Mill Wheel. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 5th Dec “Do Survey the Pens and Overshotts of …, South Mill, …l on the said Twelfth day of this instant December and make their Report to the Commissioner” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1760 2nd Jan “South Mill We present, We found the pen of the Mill to Damage the Lands on both sides the River. And that in case the said pen was lowered and the Overshott widened. It will be of service to the Lands adjoining the River above this said Mill. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-) *history]*

c1765 Mr Beaumont, South Mill on map *[Smeaton’s Papers, Vol 6 Fol 87v Royal Society]*

1785 6th Jul William Beaumont, baker and mealman. On a house and water corn mill (with) house adjoining and on the mills in the said millhouse in Bishops Stortford in the occupation of a tenant. Timber built and tiled and known as South Mill £500 *(Royal Exchange Fire Insurance Policy 93549)*

1793 12th Oct William Beaumont, On dwelling house £300 On water mill £400 on utensils and trade £100. *(Policy 135915)*

1800 10th Dec William Beaumont, dwelling house £100 Water mill £400 Stock in trade

£900 Water mill wheels and going gear etc., £200 Warranted no steam engine in adjoining or communicating with. *(Policy 179998)*

1802 1st Feb Dwelling House £400 Mill £300 Stock in Trade and utensils £500 On waterwheels standing and going gears £150. No steam engine. *(Policy 189215)*

1805 1st Edition OS map marked as ‘Sow’ Mill up to 1834 William Beaumont

1841 7th Jun William Tanner (38) (miller) *[Census RG7/Herts/Bishops Stortford/2/14]*

1845 William Tanner

1851 30th Mar Edward Tanner (29) (miller employing 1man 1 boy) [Census RG8/Herts/Bishops Stortford/2b/40]

1851 W Tanner also Charles Barnard (and at Harlow) 1855 C Barnard also Edward Samuel Tanner

1861 8th Apr Edward Tanner (39) (miller) *[Census RG9/ Herts /Bishops Stortford/2g/19]*

1864 C Barnard also John G Garrard (and at Twyford Mill)

1867 Richard Hunt said he owned the mill. Two pairs of stones but water supply was only sufficient to drive one pair for 10 hours out of 24. Fall at the mill was 5 or 6 feet. . *[Pollution Commission 1867 p 71]*

1870 John Lawrence

1871 2nd Apr John Lawrence (39) (miller) *[Census RG10/Herts/Bishops Stortford/2/7]*

1878 Fearn & Brace

1879 Fearn & Brace

1879 Dissolution of partnership (of) millers and bargeowners. Debts by A Brace. 1881 4th Apr Ansell Brace (37) (miller and bargeowner) *[Census RG11/Herts/Bishops*

*Stortford/2/6]*

1882 Fearn & Brace but also John Kidd Barnard (executors of) 1886 Thomas Garrett (also Hunsdon Mill)

1887 7th Feb Dissolution of partnership R Hunt & Co 1887 16th Apr Thomas Garrett died

1890 – 1895 Richard Hunt

1890 – 1902 Charles Lee

1891 5th Apr Charles Lee (60) (miller) *[Census RG12/Herts/Bishops Stortford/2/41]* 1897 14th Dec Conveyance from Mrs J L Hunt to Sir Walter Gilbey [*Stort Deeds 197]* 1901 31st Mar Charles Lee (70) (miller) *[Census RG13/Herts/Bishops Stortford/2/55]*

1908 Site owned by Sir Walter Gilbey *(NA – Rail 845/60)*

1955 Milling ceased and building became a furniture store Late 1970s Destroyed by fire

# TWYFORD MILL

OS Reference: TL 493192; Pig Lane, Near Thorley, Herts CM22 7PA

1086 Mentioned in the Domesday Book: “ Torlei: Rodhere from Bishop of London; Geoffrey de Mandeville. **Mill**.”

This may have been the Mill recorded at Thorley, valued at 7/-

1729 4th Jun “doe view … Twyford …,l as to the Lowshotts & penns & give the Comissioners an acct att ye next Meeting how wide & deep they ought to be. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1729 23rd Jul “Twyford Mill And alsoe that Twyford Mill als Thorley Mill penns five foot and two inches ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 31st Oct “Complaint of Wm Beaumont postponed At this Court the Complaint of William Beaumont Owner and Occupyer of South Mill in the Parish of Bishops Stortford in the County of Hertford That his Mill is Damaged for want of an Over Shott to Twyford Mill in the Parish of Thorley is postponed at the request of the partys to the next Court…” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 24th Nov “The Complaint of Mr Wm Beaumont for want of an Overshott to Twyford Mill Also At this Court William Beaumont of South Mill complains that his Mill is greatly Damaged for Want of an Overshott to Twyford Mill and that the Penn of Twyford Mill is too high and Pens into South Mill Wheel. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 24th Nov “The Complaint of Mr Wm. Luking William Luking Complains that the Lands he holds receive great Damage for want of an Overshott to Twyford Mill. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 5th Dec “Do Survey the Pens and Overshotts of Twyford Mill, … on the said Twelfth day of this instant December and make their Report to the Commissioner” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1760 2nd Jan “Twiford Mill We present, We found the pen of the Mill to Damage the Lands on both sides the River. And that in case the said pen was lowered and an Overshott Fifteen feet wide. It will be of service to the Lands adjoining the River above this said Mill. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 Mentioned in River Stort Act

c1765 Proprietor John Raper, Esqr. on map *[Smeaton’s Papers, Vol 6 Fol 87v Royal Society]*

1789 23rd Oct John Beaumont of Bishops Stortford baker, on utensils and trade in a water corn millhouse, timber built and tiled situate at Thorley £200 *[Royal Exchange Fire Insurance Policy No 113588]*

1793 12th Oct William Beaumont, miller of Bishops Stortford, on utensils and trade in a water corn mill, timber built and tiled mill £200 *[Royal Exchange Fire Insurance Policy No 135915]*

c1800 Present building erected

1800 6th Nov John Beaumont of South St, Bishops Stortford, miller. On stock in trade in a water corn mill timber built and tiled situate in the Parish of Thorley and known as Twyford Mill £400 *[Royal Exchange Fire Insurance Policy No 178947]*

1802 27th Aug William Beaumont of Thorley, miller. On his dwelling house at Twyford,

£300. On utensils and trade in his water corn mill house timber built and tiled near and known as Twyford Mill £500. Warranted no steam engine. *[Royal Exchange Fire Insurance Policy No 193227]*

1808 24th Sep George Frere of Lincolns Inn, London, on a house in Thorley & known by the name of Twyford Millhouse in occupation of William Beaumont Jnr £300. On a water corn millhouse with shops and lofts all adjoining, timber and tiled situate near in occupation of William Beaumont having no steam engine or kiln £350. On the waterwheels, standing and going gears £250 *[Royal Exchange Fire Insurance Policy No 239783]*

1809 25th Mar William Beaumont of Thorley, miller on a dwelling house timber and tiled at Twyford £300. On moveable utensils and trade in a water cord mill house shops and lofts adjoining timber and tiled near and belonging and known as Twyford Mill £100. Warranted no steam engine *[Royal Exchange Fire Insurance Policy No 245599]*

1834 John G Garrard

1845 Henry Jacob Leader

1851 William Tamer

1851 30th Mar Mary Tanner (55) living in mill house *[Census RG8/Herts/Thorley/1/1]*

1861 8th Apr John G Garrard (35) (miller) *Census RG9/Herts/ Thorley /1c/15]*

1870 William Collett

1871 2nd Apr William Collett (32) (miller & farmer) *[Census RG10/Herts/Thorley/1/18]*

1874 – 1937 John Lawrence

1881 4th Apr John Lawrence (49) (corn miller and farmer of 215 acres employing 12 labourers & 1 boy) *[Census RG11/Herts/Thorley/1/16]*

1891 5th Apr John Lawrence (59) (corn miller and farmer) *[Census RG12/Herts/Thorley/1/14]*

1900 For a few years auxiliary steam power was used and then power reverted to water derived from a breast shot wheel

1901 31st Mar John Lawrence (69) (corn miller and farmer) *[Census RG13/Herts/Thorley/1/1]*

1908 Mr Frere (owner) John Lawrence (occupier) *[NRO Rail 845/60]*

1909 15th Oct Mr E.C. Frere & Mr L. Frere at Conference *[Lee Conservancy transcript notes]*

1911 2nd Apr John Lawrence (44) (flour miller & farmer) *[Census RG14/365/134/1/11]*

1911 29th May Agreement between the Lee Conservancy Board, L Frere and J Lawrence re Twyford Mill *[Stort Deeds 200]*

1919 J Lawrence Flour milling *[NA Rail 845/129]*

1920 Flour grinding ceased

1947 Cattle feed grinding ceased and the mill closed down 1954 Converted into flats

# LITTLE HALLINGBURY MILL

OS Reference: TL 495169; Old Mill Lane, Gaston Green, Essex CM22 7QY

This mill has been known at various times as Tednam Mill, Tednambury Mill, Gaston Green Mill and Silk Mill.

1086 Mentioned in the Domesday Book: *Halingeb(er)ia / -heberia / Hallingeberia*: Bishop of London; Walter from Swein of Essex; Roger d'Auberville; Martel and Hugh from Geoffrey de Mandeville. **2 mills,** 10 beehives. 2 foals, 32 goats.

1641 As Tednam Mill was leased to one Robert Merry, Miller, for 21 years as a Grist Mill. *[St Mary’s Chuch, Little Hallingbury Records]*

1693 Leased by Charterhouse to Edward Ettrick and John Barlstead. “Mill was wholly built anew from the very foundations in order to be used and employed about winding of fine raw silks and was so used until 1778 when it was converted to a corn mill. *[St Mary’s Chuch, Little Hallingbury Records]*

1728 Referred to as used for twisting and winding silk. Employed many local women

1729 4th Jun “doe view …the Silk Mill as to the Lowshotts & penns & give the Comissioners an acct att ye next Meeting how wide & deep they ought to be. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1729 23rd Jul “Silk Mill And alsoe that the Silk Mill penn is four foot and the Bygates ought to be lowered to the same height”*[Court of Sewers Minutes: www.leeandstort .co.uk/stort\_pre-history]*

1759 5th Dec “Do Survey the Pens and Overshotts of … Silk Mill on the said Twelfth day of this instant December and make their Report to the Commissioners at their next Session” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 Mentioned in the Stort Navigation Act as a “silk mill”

1760 2nd Jan “Silk Mill We present the Pen of the Mill to do Damage to the Lands above when raised by false Flash Gates, which are sometimes used and at other times not. (at the Mill and Overshott likewise) to the Great Damage to the Lands thereto adjoining. Therefore we are of Opinion that these Flashes ought not to be used. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

c1765 Proprietor, Charter House on map *[Smeaton’s Papers, Vol 6 Fol 87v Royal Society]*

1774 23rd Aug Noted by Rt Hon William Windham in his diary

1778 Converted to a corn mill by James Pavitt and Richard Martin 1800 Purchased by George Pavitt

1805 st Edition O S Map as ‘Tednam’

1827 Mortgage agreed between George Pavitt and William Hasildine Pepys and Edward Pepys for £2305 + interest at 5% p.a. The property consisted of “All that dwelling house with outbuildings, yards and gardens and all that water corn mill and a piece of meadow ground containing in the whole 2½ acres or thereabouts with the head of water in the Parish of Little Hallingbury together with a parcel of land of about 5 acres also that Windmill *(which stood SE of the watermill)* built by George Pavitt upon the parcel of land called Seedcrops.

1839 Owned by George and Peter Pavitt and occupied by Joseph and Peter Pavitt. 1841 7th Jun Peter Pavitt (40) (miller - silk mill) *[Census RG7/Essex/Little Hallingbury/4/1]* 1851 30th Mar Peter Pavitt (50) (miller employing 3 men) *[Census RG8/Essex/Little*

*Hallingbury/3/25]*

1856 Feb Property passed to Joseph Edward Holdsworth (a tallow merchant) of Mile End Road. Mill had 3 pairs of stones *[Essex Standard 15.2.1856]*

1861 8th Apr Peter Pavitt (60) (miller) *[Census RG9/Essex/Little Hallingbury/5c/5]*

1871 2nd Apr Henry Bonner (40) (miller employing 3 men) *[Census RG10/Essex/Little Hallingbury/5/8]*

1874 Present Mill built on slightly different site

1881 4th Apr Henry J Bonner (52) (corn miller & farmer of 5 acres employing 5 men)

*[Census RG11/Essex/Little Hallingbury/5/22]*

1885 Old mill which stood on site of present granary demolished

c1889 Under J E Holdsworth’s will the property passed to the Scrutton family of 8 Gracechurch Street

? Passed into the hands of Silvester Edwards of Bishops Stortford

1891 5th Apr Silvester Edwards (33) (miller, farmer and corn dealer) *[Census RG12/Essex/Little Hallingbury/5/6]*

1900 Sale by auction. Purchased by George Archibald Wallis of Hulls Mill, Sible Hedingham for £1500

1901 31st Mar George A Wallis (29) (corn miller) *[Census RG13/Essex/Little Hallingbury/5/18]*

1908 Mr Wallis (owner) not inclined to give up his mill rights 1909 15th Oct Mr G.A. Wallis at Conference *[Lee Conservancy transcript notes]* 1911 2nd Apr No census record found

1911 29th May Agreement between the Lee Conservancy Board, G A Wallis and Mrs E L Lidderdale re Hallingbury Mill *[Stort Deeds 201]*

1919 Mrs Wallis (owner) *[NRO Rail 845/129]*

? Sold to Sam Ellis

1928 13th Jan Ellis & Hardie (owners)

1952 Ceased milling as uneconomic. 8-10 sacks per day

1967 Purchased by John Wilkinson and subsequently restored

# SAWBRIDGEWORTH MILL

OS Reference: TL 486151; Mill Lane, Sawbridgeworth, Herts CM21 9PL

1086 Mentioned in the Domesday Book: “Sabrixteworde: Geoffrey de Mandeville.

Mill.”

Domesday Book recorded two mills, one worth 20/- and the other worth 5/4 – The latter was probably Sheering Mill (q.v.)

1632 Charles I granted with Sayes Park, the manor of Pishobury (except the park), Sawbridgeworth Mills and the rents of land called Alexander, late of Edward Leventhorpe…. to Arthur Brett and Nicholas Harman. *[Victoria County History, Hertford Vol 3]*

1689 the two water-mills called Sawbridgeworth Mills, one a corn-mill and the other a fulling-mill *[Victoria County History, Hertford Vol 3]*

1720 Andrew Littler, miller

1729 4th Jun “doe view … Sabridgeworth … as to the Lowshotts & penns & give the Comissioners an acct att ye next Meeting how wide & deep they ought to be. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1729 23rd Jul “Sabridgeworth Mill And alsoe that Sabridgeworth Mill penn is five fot. one inch and the lowshott of equal height ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1737 3rd Jan Nathaniel Little, miller, on his dwelling house and mills adjoining under one roof called Sabridgeworth Mill £250 *[Sun Fire Insurance Policy No 75722]*

1759 Nathaniel Little Mill owner and occupier

1759 31st Oct “Sawbridgeworth Overfall It being presented by the Jury Sworne to Enquire into all Defects Defaults and Wants of Repairations of and in the said River

At the said Court held the Twenty second day of September last That the Overfall of Sabridgeworth Mill was Banked up with Earth fourteen Inches above the Timber Work of the Original Overfall which prevents ant Water of a Common course falling into the Old River. Now At this Court Mr Robert Sworder One of the Surveyors presents That the said Bank of Earth is not removed pursuant to the said Order made at the said Court held the Twenty second day of September last to the Great Damage and Injury of Isabell Sworder Widow, John Barnard the said Robert Sworder and the Reverend John Emerson Clerk Occupyers of several Lands and Grounds adjoining to the said River.

Order on Nathl. Little It is therefore Ordered that Mr Nathaniel Little the present Owner and Occupyer of the said Mill do take down and remove the said Bank of Earth on this side and before the Twenty fourth day of November next ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history]*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)

1759 24th Nov The Complaint of Mrs Sworder Also Mr William Sworder Complains on the Behalf of Mrs Arabella Sworder that the Lands she holds in Sabridgeworth receive great Damage by Mr Nathaniel Little penning his Water too High at Sabridgeworth Mill” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-) *history]*

1759 5th Dec “Do Survey the Pens and Overshotts of… Sabridgeworth Mill … on the said Twelfth day of this instant December and make their Report to the Commissioners at their next Session” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1760 2nd Jan “Sabridgeworth Mill We present that there should be a Board Nailed upon the Sell of the Overshott. One Inch thick.

We present that a Bridge a little below the Overshott of this Mill Ought to be raised about four Inches ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

c1765 Proprietor Mr Nathl. Little. on map *[Smeaton’s Papers, Vol 6 Fol 87v Royal Society]*

1830 Harlow Common Windmill was demolished and the mill frame was carried by cart to Sawbridgeworth where it became the mill house.

1841 7th Jun Dan’l Barnard (30) (miller) *[Census RG7/Herts/Sawbridgeworth/1/13]* 1851 30th Mar Daniel Barnard (45) (miller) *[Census RG8/Herts/ Sawbridgeworth/ 2a/46]* 1855 John Barnard snr., miller, also William Barnard

1861 8th Apr William Barnard (65) (miller), living in Spring Yard *[Census RG9/Herts/ Sawbridgeworth/2g/26]*

also William Barnard (59) (miller and maltster employing 50 malt makers, 25 boys, 20 bargemen, 6 barge boys), living in Fair Green. *[Census RG9/Herts/ Sawbridgeworth /2g/31]*

also John Barnard (31) (miller and corn dealer employing 10 millers, 8 others 4 boys) living in Spring Hall House *[Census RG9/Herts/Sawbridgeworth/2g/32]*

1871 2nd Apr John Barnard (41) (miller and landowner) living in Spring Hall House *[Census RG10/Herts/Sawbridgeworth/2/41]*

Also Daniel Barnard (65) (miller - out of employ) *[Census RG10/Herts/ Sawbridgeworth /2/27]*

c1880 Mill rebuilt and converted to steam

1881 4th Apr William Barnard (79) (miller employing 7 men and maltster employing 96 men) living in Fair Green. *[Census RG11/Herts/ Sawbridgeworth/2/25]*

1882 William Barnard

1886 Edward B Barnard

1891 5th Apr Thomas Burton (32) (corn miller and coal merchant) living in Mill House

*[Census RG12/Herts/Sawbridgeworth/2/38]*

1901 31st Mar Thomas Burton (42) (corn miller & corn merchant) living in the Mill House

*[Census RG13/Herts/Sawbridgeworth/2/2]*

1890 – 1926 Thomas Burton who in c1925 was using a Garrett steam engine

1908 Thomas Burton, owner, considered the takeover of the Stort by the Lee Conservancy to be an advantage but would not give up his mill rights.

1909 15th Oct Mr Thos. Burton, at Conference, spoke volubly in defence of keeping his millers rights *[Lee Conservancy transcript notes]*

1911 14th Feb Agreement between the Lee Conservancy Board, T Burton and Fanny Littler re Sawbridgeworth Mill *[Stort Deeds 202]*

1911 2nd Apr Thomas Burton (52) (miller) living in the Mill House *[Census RG14/365/134/1/9]*

1937 Thomas Burton, Ltd, owners (also South Mill, Bishop Stortford.)

1948 The present mills still do a large trade in flour and also in cattle food. The water power is an Armfield “British Empire” turbine but part of the mill is steam driven. There are no longer any stones for grinding as the flour is being produced by a modern roller mill. The old wheel, like all on the Stort was a breast wheel *[Howarth MS]*

1970 Mill closed

1975 Mill destroyed by fire

The granary has been converted into flats and other parts demolished. High on the gable of the building was a dial with a single hand. This was a water level gauge operated by a float in the mill stream. It could be seen from the miller’s house. This has been removed and its whereabouts are at present unknown.

# UNKNOWN MILL

1759 24th Nov “**The Complaint of Edward Gardiner Esqr** Also Edward Gardiner Esqr Complains that the Lands he holds of his Brother William Gardiner Esqr in Sabridgeworth receive great Damage by the Mills held by Mr ffrancis Elliott

# SHEERING MILL

OS Reference: TL 488144; Sheering Mill Lane, Sawbridgeworth, Herts CM21 9LR

1086 Mentioned in the Domesday Book: “Seeringa: Peter de Valognes. **Mill,** 3 beehives. Mule, ass.”

Sheering Mill was probably the second Sawbridgeworth Mill mentioned in the Domesday Book, value 5/4d

13th century A mill also known as Quickbury Water Mill and later called Sheering Mill passed with Quickbury Manor to Bermondsey Priory which in….

1241 granted privileges there to the mesne lord, Ralph de Assartis. Later in the 13th century the mill passed to Walter of the Mill who sold it with 2½ acres of meadow and its fishpond to Adam de Stratton, lessee of Quickbury for the large 50 marks (1 mark = 13/4d) *[Victoria County History, Essex Vol 8]*

1362 The mill had no stones at this time *[Victoria County History, Essex Vol 8]*

c1401 The mill was apparently burnt down and later rebuilt *[Victoria County History, Essex Vol 8]*

1431 The mill was ruinous. Its location was unknown but it could well have been on the same site as the later mill. *[Victoria County History, Essex Vol 8]*

1553 The mill was a fulling mill or it may have been converted to fulling soon after 1437 when it was acquired by John Leventhorpe from John Vantort (clerk) Thomas Walboro (clerk) and Roger Whale *[Fect of Juries, Essex, Vol IV p25 (199)]* Included was the mill, 40 acres of land 10 acres of meadow and 6 acres of pasture in Sheryng and another 466 acres in Sawbrichesworth (Herts). He was probably John Leventhorpe (d 1484) a large sheep farmer at Wennington and Sawbridgeworth. The fulling mill remained in the Leventhorpe family until it

c1629 was sold to Daniel Cramphorne *[Victoria County History, Essex Vol 8]*

1627 The bridge over the Stort was in 1627 the responsibility of the miller of Sheering Mill *[Victoria County History, Essex Vol 8]*

1632 Charles I granted with Sayes Park, the manor of Pishobury (except the park), Sawbridgeworth Mills and the rents of land called Alexander, late of Edward Leventhorpe…. to Arthur Brett and Nicholas Harman. *[Victoria County History, Hertford Vol 3]*

1689 the two water-mills called Sawbridgeworth Mills, one a corn-mill and the other a fulling-mill *[Victoria County History, Hertford Vol 3]*

1706 Joseph Cramphorne was holding it when he died in 1706 *[Victoria County History, Essex Vol 8]*

1713 – 1734 James Pyning worked it as a corn mill. *[Victoria County History, Essex Vol 8]*

1729 4th Jun “doe view …Sheering … as to the Lowshotts & penns & give the Comissioners an acct att ye next Meeting how wide & deep they ought to be. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1734 – 1775 Andrew Little worked it as a corn mill. *[Victoria County History, Essex Vol 8]*

1729 4th Jun “doe view … Sheering … as to the Lowshotts & penns & give the Comissioners an acct att ye next Meeting how wide & deep they ought to be

1729 23rd Jul “Sheeringe Mill And alsoe that Sheering Mill penn is four fot. seaven inches nd ye Lowshott ought to be soe likewise ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 24th Nov “The Complaint of Mr Nathaniel Norris Also Mr Nathaniel Norris Complains That his Lands receive great Damage by Mr Andrew Little penning his Water too high at Sheering Mill ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 5th Dec “Do Survey the Pens and Overshotts of … Sheering Mill, … on the said Twelfth day of this instant December and make their Report to the Commissioners at their next Session” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1760 2nd Jan “Sheering Mill We present we found the Mill pen to Damage the Lands adjoining to the River which appeared to us to be Occasioned by a peice (sic) of Timber nailed upon the Overshott which raised the pen two Inches and ¾. And we are of Opinion that that peice ought to be taken away Which with lowering the Overshott an Inch and ¼ more will release the above mentioned Lands from the Damage aforesaid. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

c1765 Proprietor Mr Andrew Little, Sherring Mill on map *[Smeaton’s Papers, Vol 6 Fol 87v Royal Society]*

1834 William Sharpe Senior 1840s – 1891 John Barnard and family 1891 Ceased work

1908 Sir Walter Gilbey (owner). Mill unoccupied

1913 Basil Scruby (owner) offered it to the Lee Conservancy Board who bought it for £250

1914 Mill closed

1917 Mill demolished *[Lee Conservancy minutes 23.2.1917]*

# Notes re land adjacent to Sheering Mill

1819 1st Oct… Indenture of lease and release between John Barnard, George Bride, Richard Matthews, John Barnard and William Barnard.

1900 9th Mar Conveyance between Alexander Crossman, Edward Mann, William Thomas Paulin and Edward Taylor and Walter Gilbey

1900 22nd Oct Conveyance between Alexander Crossman, Edward Mann, William Thomas Paulin and Edward Taylor … and Walter Gilbey

(Mann, Crossman and Paulin were brewers and Taylor was a maltster)

1908 1st Jun Sir Walter Gilbey of Elsenham Hall sold to Walter Lawrence of Monkswood, Waltham Abbey, Building Contractor, 3 acres 36 perches of land lying alongside the River Stort just above Sheering Lock and between the Stort and the great Eastern Railway for £645.

This was the site on which Walter Lawrence Ltd had their joinery factory. This closed in the 1980s and the site was developed by Walter Lawrence as a housing estate and marina basin.

# HARLOW MILL

OS Reference: TL 470128; Cambridge Road, Harlow, EssexCM20 2EP

1041 Grant made for a mill by Thurstan, a Saxon Thane to the abbot of St Edmundsbury

1086 Mentioned in the Domesday Book: “ Herlaua: St. Edmund's Abbey before and after 1066; Geoffrey from Count Eustace; Thorgils from Eudo the Steward; Richard from Ranulf, brother of Ilger. **Mill**, 7 beehives. 8 cobs, 43 goats, 3 foals.”

1536 Agreement when Harlowbury was leased to William Sumner and this lease included as manorial accessories a mill, a dovehouse and an animal pound. The mill was the present Harlow Mill Restaurant (rebuilt in the 17th century) situated where the road to Sawbridgeworth crosses the Stort. The abbots claimed a penny toll from carts crossing the bridge by the mill. *[History of Harlow, Bateman, p39]*

1729 4th Jun “doe view Harlow … as to the Lowshotts & penns & give the Comissioners an acct att ye next Meeting how wide & deep they ought to be. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1729 23rd Jul “Harlow Mill And alsoe that Harlow Mill penn is five fot. 2 inches and the Lowshott is of equall heigth (sic) ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1736 9th Jun “Elliott &c Att this Court It is presented by Wm Sworder & Peter Salmon two of the Surveyors of the River Stort That the Old River from ye Overshott belonging to Harlow Mill to ye great Road leading from Harlow to Sabridgeworth & wch lyeth agt ye land of ffrancis Elliott on ye one side & the Lands of Arthur Rainshire Benjn Marshall Richard Sutton (space) Paull Widdow & John Kemp in Staple Mead on the other side is very foule and ought to be cleansed. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-) *history]*

1757 A mill bridge, mentioned in medieval surveys, may merely have crossed the mill race. In 1757 a bridge was built for the turnpike road at Harlow Mill, in place of a ford. *[Victoria County History, Essex Vol 8]*

1759 5th Dec “Do Survey the Pens and Overshotts of Harlow Mill, … on the said Twelfth day of this instant December and make their Report to the Commissioners at their next Session” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-) *history]*

1760 2nd Jan “Harlow Mill We present We found the penning of the Mill very prejudicial to the Land adjoining the River. We also found when the Water was one inch under head it Overflowed Harlow Marsh the Water flowing from the back ditches that lead from the River, Over the Surface of the Ground so much that we walked in Water. We also found the Water flowing from the River into the Ditches which Ditches leads into a Ditch under the Park pales belonging to Edward Gardiner Esqr. And there leads into the Meads by Drains which greatly Damages the same.

And we Ordered the Miller to draw the Water down till it fell four Inches and a Quarter and then found the Water to fall back from the above mentioned Ditches and Drains. And also we are of the Opinion that by some Improvement made to the Ditches and by lowering the Pen four Inches, the Meadows will thereby be Relieved from the Damages aforesaid.

We present that the Overshott of this Mill ought to be made four feet Wider. ”

*[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1760 or earlier Rented to the Barnard family by the North family *[Victoria County History, Essex Vol 8]*

c1765 Proprietor Lord Guildford. on map *[Smeaton’s Papers, Vol 6 Fol 87v Royal Society]*

1831 When the new turnpike road was made, new bridges were built over the river and the Stort navigation canal. By 1858 the river bridge was a county bridge. *[Victoria County History, Essex Vol 8]*

1841 7th Jun John Barnard (75) (miller)

also Richard Barnard (35) (independent) *[Census RG7/Essex/Harlow/1/18]*

1849 Estate of 448 acres, including mill, on lease to the Barnard family

1851 30th Mar John Barnard (85) (miller, maltster and coal merchant employing as millers 12 men & 3 boys, as maltsters 38 men & 11 boys, as coal heavers 19 men & 3 boys), Richard Barnard (46) (father’s assistant) *[Census RG8/Essex/Harlow/6a/38]*

Bet1853-1856 During the Crimean War hundreds of tons of rice in brown casks called ‘paddy’ was brought up river to Latton and Harlow Mills and ground with wheat to provide bread (price 1/1½d a loaf) Mills were going night and day midnight Sunday to midnight Saturday. One barge would take to London 18,000 to 20,000 sacks of flour and have return cargoes

1861 8th Apr Richard Barnard (50 (sic)) (miller) *[Census RG9/Essex/Harlow/1/29]*

1871 2nd Apr Richard Barnard (63) (miller, farmer, merchant, occupies 50 acres of land, employing 9 men) *[Census RG10/Essex/Harlow/1/7]*

1871 18th Aug Death of Richard Barnard (aged 66), son of late John Barnard *[Essex Weekly News, p 8 col 5]*

1876 William North sold Harlow Mill to the Barnards. *[Victoria County History, Essex Vol 8]*

1881 4th Apr John Kidd Barnard (31) (farmer and miller) *[Census RG11/Essex/Harlow/1/46]*

1890 Ceased grinding flour but continued with cattle food until 1920s 1891 5th Apr William Chapman (26) (miller) *[Census RG12/Essex/Harlow/1/18]*

1901 31st Mar Basil Scruby (25) (coal merchant, corn dealer) *[Census RG13/Essex/Harlow/1/35]*

1908 John Barnard was co-operative in the Lee Conservancy taking over the Stort

*[NA Rail 845/60]*

1909 15th Oct J. Barnard said at Conference “We want to work with the Lee Conservancy as much as we possibly can. On the other hand, I am perfectly certain the Lee Conservancy do not wish to place us in such a position that we cannot work the mills at a profit.” *[Lee Conservancy transcript notes]*

1911 22nd Mar Agreement between the Lee Conservancy Board, and J Barnard re HarlowMill *[Stort Deeds 203]*

1911 2nd Apr Edmund Sell (54) (miller and carter) *[Census RG14/517/189/3/1]*

1926 24th Jul Goddard and Smith offered Harlow Mill to the Lee Conservancy Board for

£3500

1926 8th Oct Lee Conservancy Board decided not to buy the mill.

1930 27th Jun Harlow Mill up for sale. Owner H Pemberton *[Lee Minutes]*

1932 Oct Some months ago Harlow Mill was purchased by Mr Ashby who subsequently conveyed it to the Lee Valley Sand and Ballast Pits Ltd*. [NA Rail 845/85]*

1938 Most of the Mill burnt down. Water rights acquired by the Lee Conservancy.

# LATTON MILL

OS Reference: TL 459120; Near Mead Park Industrial Estate, River Way, Harlow, Essex CM20 2SE

1065 Not mentioned in the Domesday Book: “Lattuna: St. Edmund's Hall; Adelulf from Count Eustace; Thorgils from Peter de Valognes. Church.”

1449 Recorded *[NA C139/135 No 35]*

1500s Acquired on leasehold by James Altham, whose descendants retained them until 1778. *[Victoria County History, Essex Vol 8]*

1616 Marked on Altham Map.

1673 Mentioned in church register

1729 – 1760 Not mentioned in the Courts of Sewers Minutes *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 Not mentioned in River Stort Act

c1765 Marked as Lattin Mill. on map, no proprietor shown *[Smeaton’s Papers, Vol 6 Fol 87v Royal Society]*

1768 Said to have been demolished many years before

1772 Described by John Grundy as Mr Altham’s new mill called Latton Mill 1777 Mentioned on Chapman and Andre map

1779 19th Mar William Lushington of Latton. On his house at Latton Mill in the tenure of Daniel Reddington miller; timber and tiled £80. Water corn mill, two shops, granary, counting house adjoining each other. Separate £600 *[Sun Fire Insurance Policy 411309]*

1779 29th Mar John Speed of Harlow, mealman and farmer. On his dwelling house as aforesaid £90. On stock in a water corn mill called Latton Mill. Separate, timber and tiled. £100. *[Sun Fire Insurance Policy 411859]*

1780 18th Apr George Mead, Harlow, mealman. On his utensils and stock in a water corn mill, Latton Mill Harlow, timber and tiled. £400 *[Sun Fire Insurance Policy 427427]*

1784 29th Nov William Death at Latton Mills miller. On his utensils and stock in the Hertfordshire Warehouse at Woodwells Wharf on the new Cut at Limehouse Timber £800 *[Sun Fire Insurance Policy 498899]*

1785 5th Jan William Death of Latton Mill. On his utensils and stock in his water corn mill only at Harlow. Timber and tiled. £500. *[Sun Fire Insurance Policy 500094]*

1791 23rd Apr Wm Death of Hunsdon Mill on his utensils and stock in Latton Mill. Timber and tiled. £800. *[Sun Fire Insurance Policy 582787]*

1805 Marked on 1st Edition OS Map

1817 30th May “Mill with 6 acres of meadow and a large farm yard to be sold by auction on 21st July” *[Chelmsford Chronicle]*

1817 8th July “Mill with 6 acres of meadow and a large farm yard to be sold by auction on 21st July” *[Essex Herald]*

1819 2nd Feb “On 21st January there died in his 80th year much respected, Mr Daniel Reddington of Latton Mill whose invariable integrity through life obtained him the character of an honest miller.” *[Essex Herald]*

1832 – 1834 William Barnard and Son

1835 30th Oct Partnership between William Barnard and Charles Barnard, millers and farmers, dissolved on 29th September, 1835 *[London Gazette]*

1841 7th Jun Joseph Newell (30) (miller) *[Census RG7/Essex/Latton/6/1]*

1842 onwards Owned by John Herrington Thurgood, farmer, miller and baker. 1845 – 1855 Charles Barnard

1851 30th Mar Joseph Newell (46) (journeyman miller, note: His employer occupying 70 acres of land.) *[Census RG8/Essex/Latton/5/1]*

Bet1853-1856 During the Crimean War hundreds of tons of rice in brown casks called ‘paddy’ was brought up river to Latton and Harlow Mills and ground with wheat to provide bread (price 1/1½d a loaf) Mills were going night and day midnight Sunday to midnight Saturday. One barge would take to London 18,000 to 20,000 sacks of flour and have return cargoes

1849 6th Apr reference to Joseph Newell of Latton Mill. *[Essex Standard]* 1861 8th Apr William Weald (28) (miller) *[Census RG9/Essex/Latton/6/8]* 1863 – 1866 Edmund Glasscock

1870 Edmund Glasscock, Latton Mill and at Harlow

1871 2nd Apr William Weald (38) (miller) Latton Mill Cottage. *[Census RG10/Essex/Latton/6/9]*

1874 – 1878 Executors of Edmund Glasscock, Latton Mill and Harlow 1881 4th Apr William Weald (48) (miller) *[Census RG11/Essex/Latton/74/1]* c1882 Ownership transferred to J H Thurgood’s son Joseph Thurgood 1890 – 1899 Joseph Thurgood, Latton Mills.

Visiting card of Joseph Thurgood, courtesy of Mr Hannant

1891 5th Apr William Weald (58) (miller) *[Census RG12/Essex/Latton/6/8]*

1901 31st Mar Latton Mill not recorded. William Weald (68) recorded as a miller but living at Maypole Cottage in Harlow. *[Census RG13/Essex/Latton/4/1]*

1907 J.L. Arkwright, owner

1908 Mill is in very dilapidated state and has not been used for many a year.

Owned by L W Arkwright *[NA Rail 845/60]*

1909 15th Oct Mr Alfred Savill, (Agent for Owner) at Conference *[Lee Conservancy transcript notes]*

1911 27th Feb Agreement between the Lee Conservancy Board and L J W Arkwright re Latton Mill *[Stort Deeds 204]* Note: This was the only mill to have a paragraph in the agreement re charging tolls : “Nothing in this agreement shall curtail or interfere with the rights of the said Loftus Joseph Wigram Arkwright or his tenants under the River Stort Acts and they shall be At liberty to appoint anyone they may choose to collect any Mill Tolls payable under such Acts”

1911 2nd Apr William Knight (59) (farm foreman) living in Latton Mill with his family

*[Census RG14/189/3/2/12]*

1914 Mill broke up in a storm. In latter years it was used for grinding cattle feed. 1931 27th Jul Recommended that the old mill sluices at Latton Mill still in position and

maintainable by Messrs Arkwright were in a bad state and should be done away with and the old mill site filled in.

1950 Old wheel site still in position

1975 Sept Letter and Photograph *[Essex Countryside]*

# GILSTON MILL (Site uncertain)

Possible OS Reference: TL 448114; near junction of old and new rivers at SW corner of Terlings but site is uncertain.

1189 – 1199 In the records of Waltham Abbey there is a series of Charters dealing with Burnt Mill and in these agreements were made with the Lord of Gilston for the enlargement of the mill pool and the control of the water. The Gilston Mill seems to have stood just to the east of where Harlow Town Station now stands, on the opposite bank so close to Burnt Mill that the water power was only sufficient for both mills by mutual agreement *[History of Harlow. Bateman Ed. p35]*

date nk Reference to a mill at Gilston/Netteswell *[Harley MS 4809 fol 132]*

1729 -1760 Not mentioned in the Minutes of the Court of Sewers *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 Not mentioned in the River Stort Act

# BURNT MILL

OS Reference: TL 44411; Burnt Mill Lane, Harlow CM20 2QS

1189 – 1199 Abbey Mill of Netteswell Manor, later known as Birnt Mill was being constructed. It was so near to Gilston Mill that the water power was only sufficient for both mills by a mutual arrangement, which still left insufficient power for Parndon Mill. Also agreements were entered into with the Lord of Gilston for the enlargement of the mill pool and the control of the water.

1203 Ralph son of Walter conveyed a mill at Netteswell to Waltham Abbey. It was almost certainly the water-mill on the Stort recorded between 1203 and *c*. 1211, and it may have been the predecessor of Burnt Mill, recorded from 1580. Burnt Mill belonged to the lord of the manor, from whom it was leased by the miller. *[Victoria County History, Essex Vol 8]*

1580 8th Dec John Howe of Burnt Myll was buried. 1759 Referred to in the Stort Act as “Brent Mill”

1729 4th Jun “doe veiw (sic) the Lowshott and penns of Brent Mill … & make their report at next Session of Sewers how wide & deep they ought to be ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1729 4th Jun “Ordrd that the Miller of Brent Mill doe putt a Lock upon the ffloodgates upon the side of the River and that he keeps the key himselfe and that he lets his water down and in flood times noe lower than the Overshott. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1729 23rd Jul “Brent Mill And it alsoe presented that Brent Mill als Burnt Mill may penn four fot. and the lowshott or overshott is fifteen foot wide & answers yt penn ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 5th Dec “Do Servey the Pens and Overshotts of … Brent Mill on Wednesday the Twelfth day of this instant December and make their Report to the Commissioners

1760 2nd Jan “Brent Mill At their Pen when the Water run over the Overshott no body complained of any Damage, but since the Survey was taken some persons have complained of the Damages that they receive by the pen of the Mill being too high. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

c1765 Proprietor Mrs Martin, Burnt Mill, on map *[Smeaton’s Papers, Vol 6 Fol 87v Royal Society]*

1772 Mill building across stream

1788 18th Nov Wm Toovey of Hunsdon Mill and Henry Cundell of 47 Minories, chemist and druggist. On their utensils and stock (not hazardous) in Burnt Mill. Timber and tiled. £800 *[Sun Fire Insurance Policy 550739]*

c1824 The Death family, who were the millers from *c*. 1824 until 1870 or later, acquired the freehold. *[Victoria County History, Essex Vol 8]*

Last family to work here as a flour mill was William Death and Lydia his wife. One child William. They were dissenters.

1841 7th Jun William Death (40) (miller) and son William (15)

1841. August When the Northern & Eastern Railway opened here there was no station, only a porter’s lodge by the level crossing. This became a “provisional stopping place“ or what we would nowadays call a halt. Its first recorded use for passengers is 10 September 1841 when the N&ER ran special trains for Harlow Bush Fair.

1842 13th May Death of William Death of Burnt Mill *[Essex Standard]*

1843 For the first two years of its life the stopping place at Burnt Mill seems not to have had a fixed name. At first it was known as “Netteswell” or “Burnt-mill, Netteswell” but the name “Burnt Mill” seems to have been adopted around 1843. There were no station buildings or platforms at this time – only hard standings beside the track.

1846 The Eastern Counties Railway constructed a permanent station at Burnt Mill in 1846. This had normal platforms, a station building, and a goods yard equipped with a goods shed. This station lasted until 1960 when it was demolished to make way for the new Harlow Town station.

1847 2nd Apr William Death of Watermill Robbed – See below left from the Herts Mercury Sat 3rd April. The story continues below right from the Chelmsford Chronicle of 16th April. Both men were transported to New South Wales on 2 December 1848 on board the ship “Hashemy”.



(*courtesy of Richard Bradley)*

1851 30th Mar William Death (26) (miller and coal merchant with 3 labs) *[Census RG8/Essex/ Netteswell /4 /1]*

1861 8th Apr William Death (36) (miller & coal merchant) *[Census RG9/Essex/ Netteswell /7*

*/1]*

1871 2nd Apr William Death (46) (miller & coal merchant) *[Census RG10/Essex/ Netteswell /7*

*/1]*

1874 October ‘The lane from Netteswell Cross over the canal bridge was a lonely road with the levels of the old Tunman Mead on the right and the rising ground of the mill’s walls on the left. The only dwellings were near the river, the mill the lockhouse (a single room) and the little cottage for the station master close together.’ *[Note from Essex Review. Vol XXXII]*

1870s Death family still held mill but by……

1881 4th Apr Robert Dudley Gayford (37) (Corn Miller Master Employing 4 men & 2 boys) *[Census RG11/Essex/ Netteswell /7 /1]*

c1884 Mill closed

1885 John Kirkaldy Ltd bought the site and built a factory employing over 300 1886 Mill demolished. It was latterly driven by an early form of turbine *[Howarth*

*MS TWA]*

1891 5th Apr Edward Seabury (38) Manager and Mechanical Engineer, living in Mill House *[Census RG12/Essex/ Netteswell /9 /19]*

1908 Kirkaldy’s were anxious that the Lee conservators should acquire the navigation *[NA Rail 845/129]*

1910 24th Jun Agreement between the Lee Conservancy Board and J Kirkaldy Ltd re Burnt Mill *[Stort Deeds 205]*

1924 Premises were factory occupied by Kirkaldy and Son, marine engineers, from West India Dock Road

c1930 Kirkaldy’s closed. Most buildings were demolished.

# PARNDON MILL

OS Reference: TL 437111; Parndon Mill Lane, Parndon, Harlow CM20 2HP

1086 Mentioned in the Domesday Book: “Perenduna / induna: Barking Abbey before and after 1066; Iwain from Count Eustace; Roger from Peter de Valognes; Alfred from Ranulf, brother of Ilger. **Mill,** 3 beehives.”

1189- 1199 Because of lack of water Roger, son of Ambrose, the owner of Parndon Mill agreed to pull his mill down and reconstruct it a furlong lower down the river. Roger de Parndon Parva (or de Parendune) changed his name to de la Mare.

1729 7th May “And a complaint made by Joshua Goodwyn of Neteswell that about 8 acres of pasture in Broadmead in the P-ish of Neteswell is damaged for want of a Lowshott to Little Parndon Mill. Itt is ordered that the Jurymen belonging to Little Parndon Neteswell Great Parndon Eastwick & Godesston do view the same and make theire report to ye Comissioners att the next meeting. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1729 4th Jun “doe veiw (sic) the Lowshott and penns of …Little Parrendon Mill … & make their report at next Session of Sewers how wide & deep they ought to be And that they also view Goddesyard Mead & report if damaged for want of Lowshott to Little Parrendon Mill ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1729 23rd Jul “Parndon Mill And alsoe that Little Parndon Mill may penn four foot seaven inches without hindering the Lowshott but there is noo Overshott, however there ought to be one when ye Pound floods. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1729 23rd Jul “Order for Scott to attend Court Ordered that (space) Scott Widdw (the tenant of Little Parringdon Mill) doe (on complaint made by Joshua Goodwin of Netteswell at a formr Court for want of a Lowshott to that Mill) attend the Court of Sewers at their next Sessions to be holden the eighth day of October next at the Crowne in Harlow To Show Cause why the said Lowshott should not be so built And alsoe that the said Joshua Goodwin doe then alsoe attend the said Court. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1729 8th Oct “Parndon Lowshott Att this Court Itt not appearing to us upon hearing the partyes concerned that ye Erecting a Lowshott to Little Parndon Mill will be any benefit or advantage to Joshua Goodwin ye Complainant or to any other Occupyers of Lands on ye Lower leas there Or the want thereso of any damage or prejudice. Itt is thereupon ordered that the Complaint of ye afrsd Joshua Goodwin concerning the foresd Lowshott be dismissed. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1731 7th Jul “Hancock Alsoe the als Ditch of Thos Hancock of Little Parringdon Mill wch is between ye sd Thos Welshs Mead & ye Mill Banke ought to be cleansed. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 Mentioned in the River Stort Act

1759 24th Nov “Do Servey the Pens and Overshotts of … Little Parndon Mill …on Wednesday the Twelfth day of this instant December and make their Report

to the Commissioners ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-) *history]*

1760 2nd Jan “Parndon Mill We present the pen of this Mill, when the Water runs over the Overshott it don’t Appear to us to do any Damage to the Grounds thereto adjoining. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

c1765 Proprietor Edwd. Parsons, Pardon Mill, on map *[Smeaton’s Papers, Vol 6 Fol 87v Royal Society]*

1769 15th Dec Charles Hancock at Little Parndon, Miller, On his house and water corn mills only adjoining each other situate at Roydon, timber and tiled in the tenure of Thomas Hancock, Miller £550. Stable only separate and tiled £50 *[Sun Fire Insurance Policy 278528]*

1805 6th Dec Lease of Watermill for sale *[Chelmsford Chronicle]*

1806 27th Jun John Hancock’s (Parndon Mill) creditors to receive a dividend *[Chelmsford Chronicle]*

1841 7th Jun William Death (75) (miller) *[Census RG7/Essex/Little Parndon/9a/1]*

1848 Frederick Brown, miller *[White’s Directory]*

1851 30th Mar Alfred Brown (27) (miller’s son, the father employing 2 millers and one labourer) *[Census RG8/Essex/Little Parndon/3/2]*

1861 8th Apr William Clark/Slack (28) (miller, master employing 4 men 3 boys) *[Census RG9/Essex/Little Parndon/9/1]*

1871 2nd Apr Edward Westrup (61) (miller employing 8 men and 2 boys) *[Census RG10/Essex/Little Parndon/9/4]*

1881 4th Apr Edward Westrup (72) (corn miller employing 11 men and 2 boys) *[Census RG11/Essex/Little Parndon/9/5]*

1891 5th Apr Edward Westrup (82) (miller) *[Census RG12/Essex/Little Parndon/11/5]*

1892 31st May Mr Westrup, late of Parndon Mill has purchased Roydon Mill *[Essex Herald]*

1895 Present mill erected after the old mill had been burnt down.

1901 31st Mar Richard E. Smith (36) (miller & coal merchant) *[Census RG13/Essex/Little Parndon/7/1]*

1908 R. E. Smith said he used steam for 60% of his work

1908 He (Smith) was against giving up his rights on the River Stort *[NA Rail 845/60]*

1909 15th Oct Mr R.E. Smith was at the Conference *[Lee Conservancy transcript notes]*

1911 2nd Apr Richard Ernest Smith (44) (miller and coal merchant) living at Atherstone, Harlow.*[Census RG14/517/189/3/2]*

1911 17th.July Agreement between the Lee Conservancy Board and Captain Cope and others re Parndon Mill *[Stort Deeds 206]*

1912 R.E. Smith & Co Millers. Also using steam. *[Kelly’s Directory]*

1919 R.E. Smith & Co *[NA Rail 845/129]*

1948 R.E. Smith & Co machinery driven by electricity to produce flour and cattle food

# EASTWICK MILL (Site uncertain), Herts

Possible OS Reference: TL 435114 at or near present junction of old and new rivers.

1086 Mentioned in the Domesday Book: “Esteuuiche: Reginald from Geoffrey de Bec. Mill.” Domesday Book. Mill recorded worth 5/-

1301 Water mill and fulling mill valued at £2

date nk At the death of Laurence de Tany the lord of Eastwick Manor, his widow Margaret received a third part of the rent from a watermill leased by Humphrey de Walden; but as it had fallen down this part of the gift was somewhat worthless.

1607 Of the two mills owned by the lord of Hunsdon and Eastwick one was an Eastwick Mill. *[Victoria County History, Hertford Vol 3]*

1641 Both the mills were acquired by Sir John Gore. *[Victoria County History, Hertford Vol 3]*

1701 Only Hunsdon Mill is mentioned in the sale to John Plumer of Sir John Gore’s estate *[Victoria County History, Hertford Vol 3]*

1729 -1760 Not mentioned in the Minutes of the Court of Sewers *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 Not mentioned in the Stort Navigation Act.

# HUNSDON MILL

OS Reference : TL 420113; Ruins of the mill are within the property of The Pound House near Hunsdon Lock. Herts

1086 Mentioned in the Domesday Book; “Hodesdone / Honesdone: Ralph Taillebois' daughter. Mill.”

1297 Inquisition made at Hunsdon of lands belonging to John Engayn, includes one watermill 20/- *[25 Edw I Inq p.m. No 46] [Victoria County History, Hertford Vol 3]*

1508 Called Wades Mill in a conveyance or Wardes Mill in another reference

*[Victoria County History, Hertford Vol 3]*

1607 Of the two mills owned by the lord of Hunsdon and Eastwick one was a Hunsdon Mill. *[Victoria County History, Hertford Vol 3]*

1641 Both the mills were acquired by Sir John Gore. *[Victoria County History, Hertford Vol 3]*

1701 Only Hunsdon Mill is mentioned in the sale to John Plumer of Sir John Gore’s estate *[Victoria County History, Hertford Vol 3]*

1729 4th Jun “doe veiw (sic) the Lowshott and penns of … Hunsdon …s & make their report at next Session of Sewers how wide & deep they ought to be ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1729 23rd Jul “Hunsdon Mill And alsoe that Hunsdon Mill penns five fot. eight inches & may doe soe safely but it is presented that there ought to be a Low shott to ye said Mill ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 Mentioned in the River Stort Act

1759 24th Nov “The Complaint of Thos Blackmore Esqr agt Hunsdon & Roydon Mills Also Thomas Blackmore Esqr Complains That his Lands near Hunsdon Mill receive great damage by the Water being raised and penned too high at that Mill and further that the Overshott to Roydon Mill hath been Raised and made narrower than it used to be Whereby very little Water goes down the Old River which at some times is almost dry. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 5th Dec “Do Servey the Pens and Overshotts of … Hunsdon Mill, … on Wednesday the Twelfth day of this instant December and make their Report to the Commissioners” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1760 2nd Jan “Hunsdon Mill There is a Beam laid across the River near the Mill which when covered with Water they call their Pen. By which the Water is raised 14 Inches ½ above the Timber Work of the Original Overshott between the Reverend H Allens Mead and a Mead belonging to Edward Parson Esqr Which we present to do Damage to the lands adjoining to the River. And we are of the Opinion that the pen ought to be lowered, and the Overshott continued in the aforesaid place.”*[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

c1765 Proprietor Willm. Plumber, Esqr. Hunsdon Mill, on map *[Smeaton’s Papers, Vol 6 Fol 87v Royal Society]*

1786 11th Jul William Toovey, miller and Henry Cundall, 47, The Minories, chemist and druggist. On their utensils and stock not hazardous in their Hunsdon watermill. Timber & tiled *[Sun Fire Insurance Policy 520143]*

1800 3rd Apr William Death, miller and mealman, On his water corn mill house brick, timber and tiled, £500. On the water wheel, standing and going gears etc, therein, £200. On stock in trade £500. Warranted no steam engine. *[Royal Exchange Fire Insurance Policy 173740]*

1832 – 1834 William Death , Hunsdon Mill.

1841 7th Jun William Traylor (65) (miller) also David Rist (20) (miller) William Wombwell (40) (miller) and Thomas Coleman (50) (miller) *[Census RG7/Herts/Hunsdon/6/1-2]*

1845 – 1851 Richard Hunt

1851 30th Mar No record of enumerator’s visit

1861 8th Apr Thomas Garrett (36) (miller employing 8 men & 2 boys; as farmer of 242 acres employing 12 men & 3 boys) *[Census RG9/Herts/Hunsdon/4/8]*

1861 – 1866 Occupied by Thomas Garratt who moved here from Roydon.

1867 The mill had 6 pairs of stones but only 3 pairs could be used at times because of shortage of water. There was no auxiliary steam power. There was a fall of 13 - 14 feet and the drive was by a 14ft 8in diameter overshot wheel. This replaced two wheels – one at least was breast shott. The rent of the mill was

£310 with the land and lock tollage. The value of the mill and machinery (not the buildings) was £240-£250. Mr Garratt described the river “as becoming yearly fouler and fouler; every house on the river drains into it; farm-yards also; carcases float on the surface, and the bed becomes silted up with refuse.” *[Pollution Commission 1867 p xii & 79-81]*

1870 – 1872 Joseph Pearce

1871 2nd Apr Joseph Pearce (29) (miller employing 4 men & 1 boy) and Robert Coleman

(16) (miller’s apprentice) *[Census RG10/Herts/Hunsdon/4/8]*

1878 Also Thomas Garrett & Sons

1881 4th Apr Joseph Pearce (39) (corn miller employing 5 men and 1 boy) *[Census RG11/Herts/ Hunsdon/4/12]*

1882 6th Nov Hunsdon Mill near Ware to be let. This wellbuilt flour mill containing 6 pairs of stones with necessary silks, purifying machines, etc. Driven by a powerful overshot wheel and auxiliary steam power. Possession can had at Christmas. Apply: A Phelips, Witham, Essex.

1886 Ernest Arthur Ayling

1891 5th Apr Ernest A Ayling (32) (miller) also Samuel Hickling (41) (foreman miller) living in Mill Cottage. *[Census RG12/Herts/Hunsdon/2/8]*

1891 7th Sep Rollerman wanted for small roller plant (Simons). Apply E A Ayling.

Hunsdon Mills.

1901 31st Mar Ernest A Ayling (42) (corn miller) also Samuel Hickling (51) (foreman flour miller) living in Mill Cottage. *[Census RG13/Herts/Hunsdon/2/1-2]*

1904 Mill demolished.

1908 Mr Gayton on behalf of the owners said provided conservators maintained wharfing in front of Mead Lodge and prevent flooding they will release mill rights and mill dues of 3d a barge amounting to £6 per annum. *[NA Rail 845/60]*

1909 15th Oct Mr C. Gayton, (For Mr G.E. Phelips) at Conference *[Lee Conservancy transcript notes]*

1910 26th Oct Agreement between the Lee Conservancy Board and G E F Phelips re site of Hunsdon Mill *[Stort Deeds 207]*

1911 1st Jul In the grounds of Mill House, Hunsdon may be seen some traces of the foundations of the old mill together with the sluice and waterwheel *[Hertfordshire Mercury in HRO D/P21 29/30]*

2012 Old mill race still in position.

# ROYDON MILL

OS Reference: TL 402102; Roydon Marina Village, Roydon Essex CM19 5EJ

1086 Mentioned in the Domesday Book: “Ruindune: Ranulf, brother of Ilger.

Mill**.**”

13th C Recorded in Curia Regis Rolls IV 215 16th C Recorded *[ERO D/Dcu M85]*

1718 wo mills recorded

1729 4th Jun “doe veiw (sic) the Lowshott and penns of …Roydon Mills & make their report at next Session of Sewers how wide & deep they ought to be ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1729 4th Jun “Ordered by the Comissioners that John Biggs of Grt Parrndon & Edwd Shambrook doe view the penn of Roydon Mill wth the Miller of ye sd Mill & measure the same and make theire report att the next meeting of the Comissioners ” This item was crossed out in the Minute Book *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1729 23rd Jul “Roydon Mill And also that Roydon Mill penns six fot. four inches and may doe soe, and same Mill hath a Considerable Lowshott ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 Mentioned in River Stort Act

1759 24th Nov “The Complaint of Thos Blackmore Esqr agt Hunsdon & Roydon Mills Also Thomas Blackmore Esqr Complains That his Lands near Hunsdon Mill receive great damage by the Water being raised and penned too high at that Mill and further that the Overshott to Roydon Mill hath been Raised and made narrower than it used to be Whereby very little Water goes down the Old River which at some times is almost dry. ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1759 5th Dec “Do Servey the Pens and Overshotts of Roydon Mill, Hunsdon Mill, Little Parndon Mill and Brent Mill on Wednesday the Twelfth day of this instant December and make their Report to the Commissioners” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

1760 2nd Jan “Roydon Mill We present the pen of this Mill, when the Water runs over the Overshott. That it don’t appear to us to do any Damage to the Grounds Adjacent ” *[Court of Sewers Minutes:* [*www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort\_pre-history*](http://www.leeandstort.co.uk/stort_pre-history)*]*

c1765 Proprietor Mr Danl. Camp, Raydon Mill, on map *[Smeaton’s Papers, Vol 6 Fol 87v Royal Society]*

1769 15th Dec Charles Hancock at Little Parndon, Miller, On his house and water corn mills only adjoining each other situate at Roydon, timber and tiled in the tenure of Thomas Hancock, Miller £550. Stable only separate and tiled £50 *[Sun Fire Insurance Policy 278528]*

1783 24th Jun Edward Wybard of Tottenham, Miller. On his water corn mill at Roydon called Roydon Mill, brick timber and tiled £1000. *[Sun Fire Insurance Policy 479281]*

1800 3rd Apr William De’Ath on his waterwheel standing and going gears etc in timber and tiled millhouse £200. Stock in trade £600. Warranted no steam engine. *[Royal Fire Insurance Policy 173740]*

1830 New mill built with 4 pairs of stones (? see 1880)

1841 7th Jun Sampson Death (30) (miller) *[Census RG7/Essex/Roydon/10/1]*

1847 16th Sep Sale Catalogue. Sale of Roydon Mill at the George Inn, Bishops Stortford. Iron shaft driving 4 pair of French stones, all the flour and wheat machinery, running gear, etc., and store rooms for 1000 quarters of corn. On the River Stort. Also the right to vote in the County at the Bishops Stortford Corn Exchange. The lock in the stream produces “a pretty little net income of £40 p.a.” *[ERO D/DHf/E94]*

1848 Samuel Garratt miller. Succeeded by Thomas Garratt who later moved to Hunsdon Mill *[White’s Directory]*

1848 The next miller was Thomas Garratt’s brother-in-law *[Rivers Pollution Commission]*

1851 John Garratt.

1851 30th Mar Samuel Garratt (28) (miller employing 5 men) *[Census RG8/Essex/Roydon/1a/1]*

1861 8th Apr Samuel Garratt (30) (miller employing 6 men & 1 boy) *[Census RG9/Essex*

*/Roydon/10/1]*

1866 W Garratt

1868 29th Oct Sale Catalogue:

Ground floor: with water wheel of 25hp with tackle, pit wheel and waller (sic), spur wheel, stone nuts, etc. Spare floor: with bins, two pastrys, jumpers and tackle

Stone floor: Crown wheel and shafting, 5 pairs of stones, wheat cleaner, smutter, elevators and regulators for stones.

Bins: for nearly 1000 quarters of corn and storage for about 1000 quarters. Stage floor: with sack tackle for raising from the ground floor and unloading direct from the barges.

Lock: Tolls amounting to £35 per annum

Whole property at that time on lease for £220..10..0 p.a. Sold for £2400 *[The Miller]*

1870 Henry Westrup

1871 2nd Apr Henry Westrup (29) (master miller employing 3 men & 1 boy) *[Census RG10/Essex/Roydon/10/1]*

1874 Samuel Davy

1880 26th Apr “On Friday evening 26th April a fire of a totally destructive character occurred at Roydon at the water mills occupied by Davy and Woolley. The mill was 200 years old nearly all of timber. The fire commenced in the immediate vicinity of the smut rooms” *[The Miller, 3rd May 1880]*

The building was replaced by a two storey brick mill with weather boarded superstructure, powered by water, steam and later by gas.

1881 4th Apr Mill House uninhabited *[Census RG11/Essex/Roydon/10/1]*

1886 – 1890 Frederick Coleman

1891 5th Apr Frederick Coleman (30) (miller) *[Census RG12/Essex/Roydon/12/3]*

1892 4th Apr To be sold by auction at the Mart, London, early in May by instructions of the executors of the late James De’Ath, Roydon Mill comprising a water corn and flour mill driving 5 pair of stones on the R Stort close to Roydon Station together with dwelling house and range buildings whole in the occupation of Frederick Coleman *[The Miller]*

1892 31st May Mr Westrup, late of Parndon Mill has purchased Roydon Mill *[Essex Herald, 31st May]*

1892 6th June Roydon Water Mill containing 5 pair of stones and 12 acres of pasture land and let for £110 p.a. was offered by Public Auction on 25th May and was knocked down for £1800 to Mr Westrup *[The Miller, 6th June]*

1895 E. A. & F. H. Ayling 1899 – 1902 W & Edward Westrup.

1901 31st Mar Edgar Ford (50) (flour miller) *[Census RG13/Essex/Roydon/8/1]*

1906 – 1914 Westrup & Ayling Ltd.

1908 E. A. Ayling (miller) stated that his engines did 85% of the work. By this time steam engines were in use. *[NA Rail 845/60]*

1909 16th Jul Death is announced of William Edward Westrup at Blackheath, Kent on July 16th aged 76. Deceased came of an old milling family, his grandfather being a miller of Stratford, Essex, where he had a mill in Marshgate Lane. In the 1850s Edward and his brother Fredk. sons of William Westrup and father and uncle of W.E. Westrup, occupied Four Mills, Bromley by Bow where the Sun Mills now stands, trading as E & E Westrup. Later they dissolved the partnership and Edward took Parndon Mills where he continued until he died at Parndon Lodge. His son, the late W.E. Westrup started milling for himself at Bermondsey and later bought Finch’s Mill at Millbank, Westminster, which he enlarged and practically rebuilt. In 1886 he sold Bermondsey Mill and in 1890 the Millbank premises. Then he bought Roydon which he completely remodelled on the roller system by Turner. In 1905 he retired from actual milling and the Roydon business was amalgamated with that of

E.A. Ayling of Hunsdon Mills. *[The Miller, 2nd August]*

1909 15th Oct Mr E.A. Ayling, at Conference *[Lee Conservancy transcript notes]*

1910 30th Sep Agreement between the Lee Conservancy Board, E A Ayling and Westrup & Ayling re Roydon Mill *[Stort Deeds 208]*

1911 2nd Apr George Munt (50) (foreman flour mill) *[Census RG14/517/189/3/8]*

1917 – 1922 Westrup, Ayling & Young Ltd.

1920s Flour still being milled with some cattle food 1926 Westrup & Co.

c1930 Flour milling ceased

1930 28th Nov Mill sold and no one left in charge of the mill sluices. *[NA Rail 845/114]*

c1940 Cattle food grinding ceased

1939 – 1945 Building used as a store for goods from London.

1948 Premises taken over for a caravan park with boating and bathing.

1958 16th Oct Letter from Edmund J Green of Roydon Mill “We became the owners of (Roydon Mill) on 16th October 1958 and in accordance with previous practice we should be pleased to receive from you our dues in respect of vessels passing through the waterways and lock connected with these premises”

1987 Mill converted into flats with external appearance maintained